

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture, which comprises utilizing catalysts comprising wire wovens and/or drawn-loop knits composed of high-temperature-stable materials and coated with catalytically active materials.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture according to claim 1, wherein the wire wovens and/or drawn-loop knits coated with catalytically active materials consist of Fe Cr-Al alloys.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture according to claim 1, ~~or 2~~ wherein the wire or the wire wovens and/or drawn-loop knits composed of high-temperature-stable materials are heat treated at from 100 to 1500°C prior to coating.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 or 3~~ claim 1, wherein the wire woven and/or drawn-loop knit coated with catalytically active materials forms a catalyst bed from 1 to 150 cm deep.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3 or 4~~ claim 1, wherein the temperature at the wire woven and/or drawn-loop knit coated with catalytically active materials is in the range from 500 to 980°C.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5~~ claim 1, wherein the residence time over the wire woven and/or drawn-loop knit coated with catalytically active materials is less than 1 second.

Claim 7 (Original): A catalyst for removing  $N_2O$  in nitric acid manufacture, constructed of a wire woven and/or drawn-loop knit composed of high-temperature-stable materials and coated with catalytically active materials.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A reactor for catalytic oxidation of ammonia to nitrogen oxides which comprises a noble metal catalyst, ~~if appropriate~~ an optional ~~[[a]]~~ noble metal recovery network and a heat exchanger in the stated order in the flow direction, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a wire woven and/or drawn-loop knit composed of high-temperature-stable materials and coated with catalytically active materials is disposed between the noble metal catalyst/optional noble metal recovery ~~gauze~~ network and the heat exchanger.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for producing nitric acid from ammonia, comprising in the stated order

- a) a reactor according to claim 8,
- b) an absorption unit for absorbing nitrogen oxides in an aqueous medium, and if appropriate
- c) a reduction unit for selective catalytic reduction of nitrogen oxides.